



# Maryland Fire Chiefs Association

## Safety and Health Committee

### Minutes of meeting held November 28, 2022

The Safety and Health Committee of the Maryland Fire Chiefs Association held a meeting on November 28, 2022, at 1900 hours, via Zoom. Members of the committee present were:

David Lewis, Chairman  
Dick Devore  
John Long  
Roger Marks

A draft of the December newsletter, focused on Mental Wellness, was emailed to all committee members prior to the meeting. A discussion was held concerning possible changes to the draft, and the final copy will be ready for dissemination on December 1.

The committee discussed the proposal to change the format of the newsletter, starting with the January 2023 issue. In previous issues, we focused on a single topic each month. The positive of this focus was that each topic could be delved into more deeply. The negative is that some topics are very important and should be discussed more often than once per year. The new proposal is to format the newsletter as follows:

Page 1 (front) feature article – this could be from a guest contributor, or we could hit one focus area hard for that month

Page 2 – focus on cardiac care and/or cancer prevention (I know these are different, but we could alternate)

Page 3 – focus on health and wellness (to include mental wellness) – several areas apply here that could be alternated

Page 4 – focus on operational safety – including on-scene, driving, training, etc

Page 5 – focus on the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives (we would pick a different one each month and discuss that it means to health and safety)

Page 6 – focus on best practices – we would seek out a person or a department who has implemented something that shows a strong commitment to health and safety - This would be a short page since we also will continue to include the reference QR codes and other graphics.

All on the call agreed that this template was good, and we will be following it forward. Based on this template, the committee assigned the following writing assignments for the January newsletter:

- Page 1 – Dave Lewis will write an article discussing the new format and provide an introduction to the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives

- Page 2 – Roger Marks will write an article highlighting some recent initiatives in cancer research for emergency responders.
- Page 3 – Roger will reach out to Meghan Quinn and ask her to write an article focusing on health and wellness concerns.
- Page 4 – John Long will write an article on highway safety and the need for lane blocking for responder safety
- Page 5 – Dave Lewis will write an article addressing Firefighter Life Safety Initiative #1 on changing the safety culture of the fire service
- Page 6 – Roger Marks will reach out to Laytonsville D/C Tommy Baker and ask him to write a feature article on the November 27 aircraft crash into power lines. This article could provide a once in a lifetime experience and discuss safety concerns for the responders on the scene.

The following schedule was agreed to: **(NOTE EARLIER SCHEDULE DUE TO HOLIDAYS)**

- December 11 – draft inputs to Dick Devore
- December 19 at 7pm – Zoom meeting to review/approve newsletter
- January 1 – release newsletter

The committee will meet again (via Zoom) on Monday, December 19, at 7pm, to discuss the draft and review next steps. The link for the meeting is <https://umgc-edu.zoom.us/j/9191998865>

Thanks again for everyone's continued support and participation. This is a true team effort and the feedback from our newsletters has been very positive.

Meeting adjourned at 1945 hours.

Submitted by: David Lewis, Chairman